

Application No. 10/816,035
Amendment dated July 11, 2006
Reply to Office action of April 21, 2006

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A string hopper making machine comprising,
a cylindrical dough container removably mounted in a vertical manner in a
generally L-shaped frame having two spaced mutually parallel vertical side plates with a front extension portion extending forward from said frame, said container having a cylindrical well with a circular inside shoulder having a smaller diameter than said well and formed at a bottom opening therein,

a horizontal support plate fixedly mounted to a lower edge of said extension portion,

a container mounting opening formed in said support plate and adapted to engage with a lower portion of said container for mounting said container to said support plate,

an extrusion plate removably located within said well and resting on said shoulder, said extrusion plate having extrusion openings of a selected configuration formed therein,

a piston mounted on a vertical rod extending slidably in a vertical manner through a vertical channel in a guide block mounted on said frame, said rod having an upper end pivotally mounted to a front end of a lever arm, said piston adapted to engage slidably within said well,

an inverted T-shaped pivot block rotatably mounted at a top portion of said frame, said pivot block having a horizontal rod with a pivot arm extending perpendicular to a middle

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location therein, said pivot arm having an upper free end pivotally mounted to an end of a lever arm,

an inverted U-shaped bracket formed at a lower surface of a front end of said lever arm, and said upper end of said vertical rod being pivotally mounted to said front end of said U-shaped bracket.

Claim 2 (original): A string hopper machine according to Claim 1 including an elongated handle rod mounted at a front end of said lever arm and operative for pivoting said arm to move said piston slidably up and down said well of said dough container for extruding the string hopper.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): A string hopper making machine according to Claim 3 including two latching openings formed in said two side plates of said frame, said dough container having an outer circular ridge formed between an upper portion and said lower portion therein, two tabs formed at two directly opposite sides of said ridge and adapted to engage with said latching openings of said side plates by turning said container for maintaining said dough container securely and removably mounted in a vertical manner in said frame.

Claim 5 (original): A string hopper making machine according to Claim 4 wherein said dough container is made of food safe ABS plastic and a handle is formed on an outer side wall therein adapted for facilitating mounting and removing said dough container onto said frame.

Claim 6 (canceled)

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Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (currently amended): A string hopper making machine according to Claim 7 5 wherein said extrusion plate is selected from a plurality of interchangeable extrusion plates ~~has~~ having a selected configuration of openings formed therein in each different one of said extrusion plates and adapted for making string hoppers of various selected shapes.